by Government for poverty alleviation programmes during the Eighth Five Year Plan period?

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH): (a) to (d) As part of the exercise for formulating the Eighth Five Year Plan where tackling poverty would be a major concern, the Planning Commission is taking stock of the poverty situation in the country at the end of the Seventh Plan. The new strategy is expected to concentrate on poverty alleviation through accelerated and disbursed employment generation, along with a more effective and better targeted provision of basic services to vulnerable groups. Details in respect of outlays for particular programmes would be incorporated in the Plan document.

Jobs to the Dependents of IPKF Personnel killed in Sri Lanka

57. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state what is the number of families of IPKF personnel killed in Sri Lanka whose dependents have been provided with jobs and the total compensation paid to them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (DR. RAJA RAMANNA): About 500 dependents of IPKF casualties in Sri Lanka have been offered jobs by various Government departments, Public Sector Undertakings etc. The total pensionary benefits paid to the families of IPKF personnel killed in Sri Lanka is to the tune of Rs. 3.70 crores upto February, 1990.

Settlement of Old Family Pension Cases of Government Employees

58. SHRI BHUBANESWAR KALITA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state

(a) whether it is a fact that some old family pension cases relating to deceased Government servants who had expired in 1957 or 1953 are still pending settlement by Government;

(b) whether some representations have recently been received in this regard from the widows concerned; and

(c) if so, what steps Government propose to take to settle those cases on priority basis to alleviate the hardships to the widows of the deceased Government servants?

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH): (a) to (c) The benefit of family pension under the Family Pension Scheme, 1964 was extended w.e.f. 22-9-1977 to such widows as were not earlier eligible, only in terms of a Government Order issued on 18.6.1985 in implementation of a Supreme Court judgement. For the grant of family pension, the eligible widows are required to apply directly to the Heads of Office in which the deceased Government servants had served, and who are located throughout the country and are authorised to sanction such pension. As pension administration is decentralised, information about details of cases pending settlement is not centrally maintained. Any representation received in this regard is forwarded to the administrative authority concerned with advice to settle the case promptly.

Government's Policy regarding agents in Defence deals

59. SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is the policy of the Government of India not to involve agents in defence deals; and

(b) if so, when this policy was formulated and implemented?